

University Mineralogical Museum. In 1972, a spectacular discovery in Newry, ME, yielded hundreds of pounds of red and green crystals, including the "Jolly Green Giant," a 10-inch crystal now in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History collection. The State of Maine tourmaline necklace was designed using Newry gems and presented to the State in 1975 by the Maine Retail Jewelers Association.

On Presidents Day 2010, a major discovery included a 120-carat blue tourmaline crystal, among the most rare of hues. This was named "The President" and was cut into nine gems. The largest was presented as a gift from the State of Maine to President Barack Obama when he visited that year.

How and why such large deposits of tourmaline are found in Maine, so distant from the usual locales, remains a puzzle for geologists to solve. It is worth noting, however, that tourmaline is said to bestow on its bearer fearlessness, happiness, and self-confidence—qualities that define the people of our State.

Mr. President, Maine is renowned for the stunning beauty of its mountains, forests, and seacoast. The 200th anniversary of the discovery of tourmaline is a reminder that some of the most beautiful things are not as readily apparent but are well worth looking for.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DONNA VILLERE

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, Donna Villere will make 70 years old on December 1, 2020. Donna was born at Touro Hospital in New Orleans; Donna has lived her whole life in Jefferson Parish, except for 1 year in New Orleans when she was first married. Donna grew up in Harahan; her maiden name was Gunckel. Donna attended St. Rita's Church and was the first person to be baptized, make their first communion and confirmation, and be married at St. Rita's. Donna attended Chapelle High School and LSUNO College.

She is married 51 years to Roger Villere; they have 3 sons Roger, III, Mark, and Jacques; four granddaughters Madison, Masey, Victoria, and Shelby; and 2 great-grandsons Isaiah and Myles. Donna is co-owner of Villere's Florist, which she opened when she was only 18 years old on the corner of Focis Street and Metairie Road. Donna is Secretary/Treasurer, Villere Corporation.

Donna's hobby is volleyball; she is a great volleyball player, and she started varsity as a freshman at Chapelle HS. Donna has been a volleyball coach for over 35 years at Lakeshore playground in Metairie and has coached at Metairie playground and Harahan playgrounds. Donna likes to attend volleyball tournaments, one of her favorite is Fudpuckers in Destin, FL, and she has attended for over 20 years.

Donna supports local tournaments at both Coconut Beach and White Sands Beach volleyball locations in Jefferson Parish.

Donna loves to babysit with her two great-grandsons and her nephew Jaxon.●

REMEMBERING SCOTT IRVING PEEK, SR.

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today, I honor the life and legacy of Scott Irving Peek, Sr., who passed away on November 10, 2020 at the age of 94. Known to many as Scotty, he was raised in Jacksonville, FL, with a strong work ethic that carried him through a storied life and career. After high school, Scotty served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II. He then went to the University of Florida on a track scholarship in 1945; however, his service to our Nation took precedence, and he served in the U.S. Army from 1946 through 1948. He then returned to UF, where he played both football and track and in 1952 earned his degree in physical education, health, and recreation.

After college, Scotty heard the calling for public service and began a career on Capitol Hill, serving as an aide to Florida's U.S. Senator George Smathers. His advice and counsel was lauded, and he quickly became an integral member of Senator Smathers' team and family. He served his State and Nation with honor. It was in Washington, DC that he met his wife, Lillian Barretto, and perhaps his greatest accomplishment, together they raised six children: Nancy, Rosemary, Scott Jr., Catherine, William, and George.

After returning to Florida, Scotty started a public relations firm and enjoyed a successful career in many ventures, including real estate. If you knew Scotty, you knew he was passionate about his family and the University of Florida. He served in multiple capacities for the UF Foundation, and that incredible work was honored by three UF Presidents.

Through his devotion to his wife of 65 years, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends, there is no doubt that Scotty left a mark on this world. I honor his life and continued legacy.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY ELMER

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mr. Elmer, one of Rhode Island's leading advocates for humanitarian and environmental causes. Mr. Elmer is set to retire after a long and successful career, most recently with the Conservation Law Foundation.

After graduating from Rhode Island College and Harvard Law School, Mr. Elmer devoted the first part of his career to humanitarian, peace, and security issues. He was codirector of Rhode Island's American Friends Service Committee, where he focused on nu-

clear disarmament and human rights. He also traveled extensively in South and Southeast Asia to research the status of human rights and the effect of Western military and economic aid programs in the region.

Mr. Elmer's work yielded important, lasting change. He authored a key referendum to freeze the production and deployment of nuclear weapons, which appeared as a ballot question in Rhode Island in 1982. He then led the successful statewide campaign for that referendum. The 1982 nuclear freeze measure was, at that time, the largest nationally coordinated voter referendum in U.S. history.

Later in his career, Mr. Elmer turned to the fight for climate action for renewable power in Rhode Island's energy market. At the Conservation Law Foundation, Mr. Elmer appeared before Federal and State courts and the Public Utilities Commission to enforce Rhode Island's renewable energy laws. He was the principal author of several of Rhode Island's major renewable energy statutes. Notably, he drafted the long-term contracting statute, which gave rise to the Nation's first offshore wind project, the Block Island Wind Farm, and helped to write the distributed generation standard contracts law, to create a comprehensive framework to spur development of small, local renewable energy projects across the State. In recent years, Mr. Elmer led successful opposition to the siting of a fossil fuel power plant in Burrillville, RI, and has been one of Rhode Island's great environmental litigators.

Mr. Elmer is a staunch advocate for human rights, peace, and action on climate. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Conservation Law Foundation and Rhode Island echo far beyond our State. I am proud to recognize his service and thank him for such an impressive career in battle for great causes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 327. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

S. 3147. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress reports on patient safety and quality of care at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3587. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 900. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of